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United States Patent [19]

Mason

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[45] **Date of Patent: Jan. 12, 1999**

[54] **REMOVABLE STEP MEMBER AND METHOD**

[76] Inventor: **Robert J. Mason**, 1503 S. Madison, Hugoton, Kans. 67951

[21] Appl. No.: **974,900**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **E06C 7/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **182/92**; 248/297.51

[58] **Field of Search** 182/90–92, 223; 248/297.51

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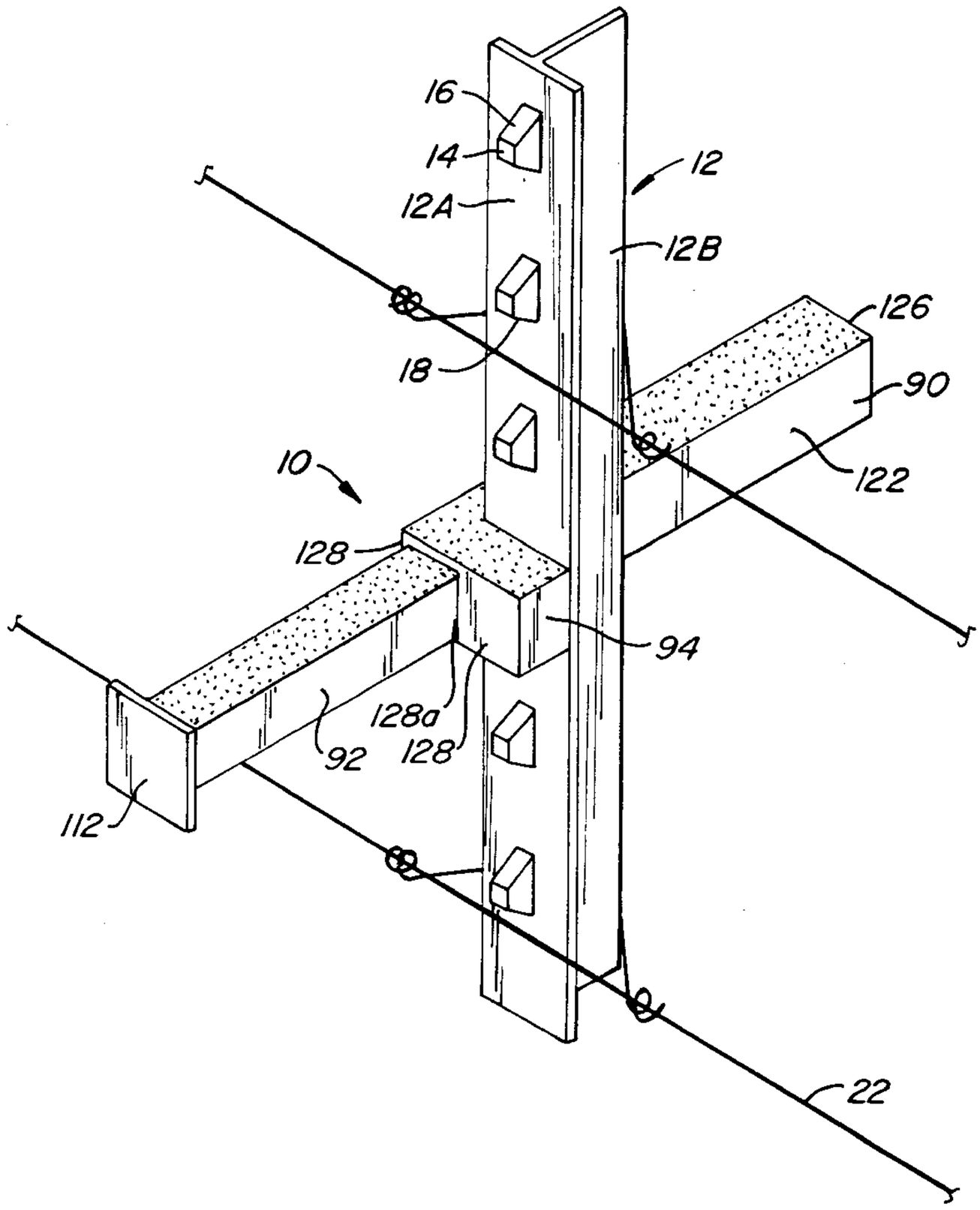
Primary Examiner—Alvin Chin-Shue

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Townsend and Townsend and Crew

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A step member for being removably secured to a fence post to facilitate a person climbing over a fence. The step member includes a generally integral structure having a protruding lug, including a lug recess. The integral structure of the step member further includes a structural recess wherein a portion of a fence post may removably lodge. The fence post includes a wire stop for being removably lodged within the lug recess. Instead of a generally integral structure, the step member may include a generally hollow step body wherein a step extender slidably lodges. A catch or latch member is secured to the hollow body for positioning the step extender in an affixed relationship with respect to the hollow body. A method for climbing over a fence including removably securing a step member to a wire stop of a fence post, such that the step member may receive the foot of a person who wishes to climb over a fence.

20 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets



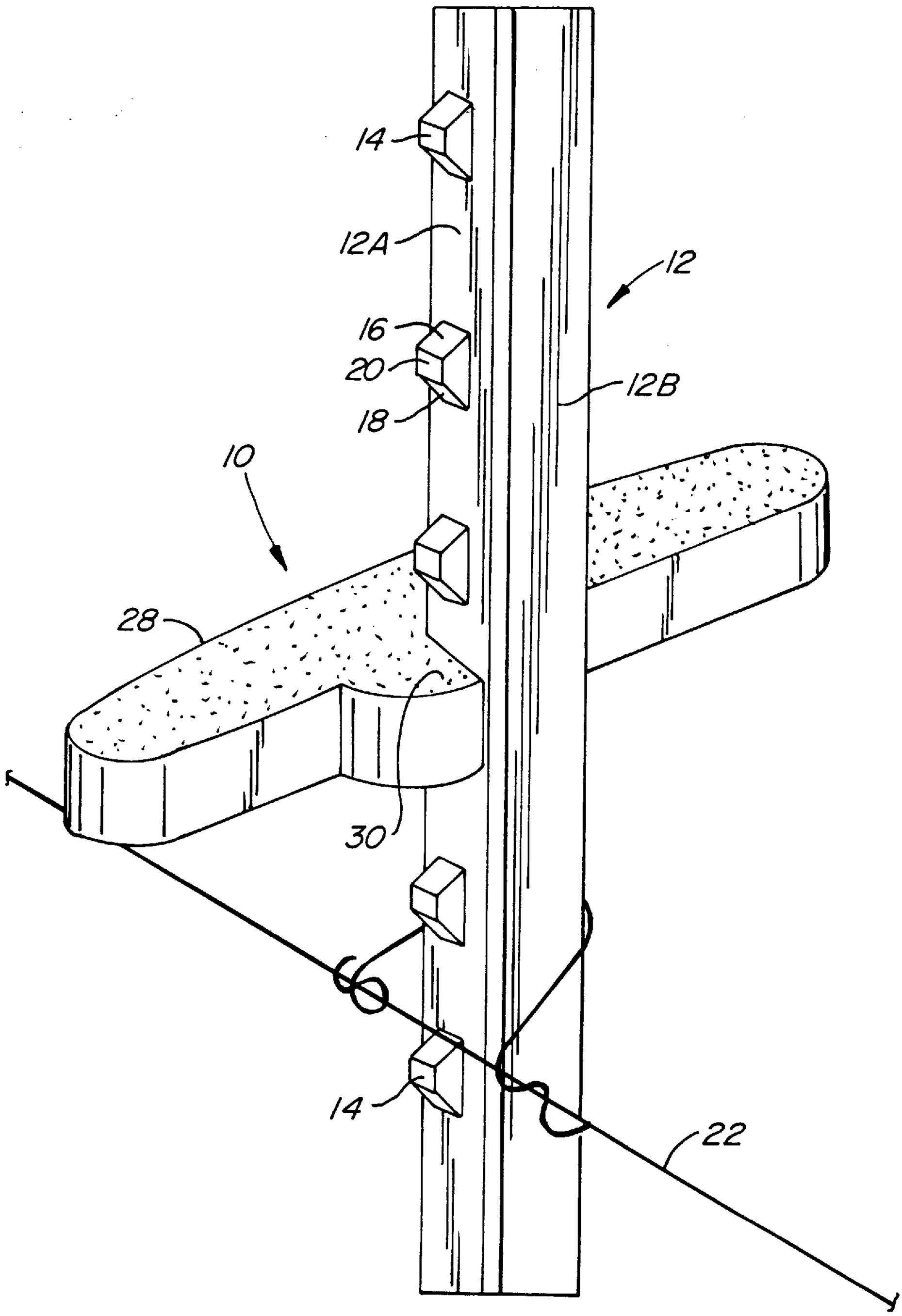


FIG. 1.

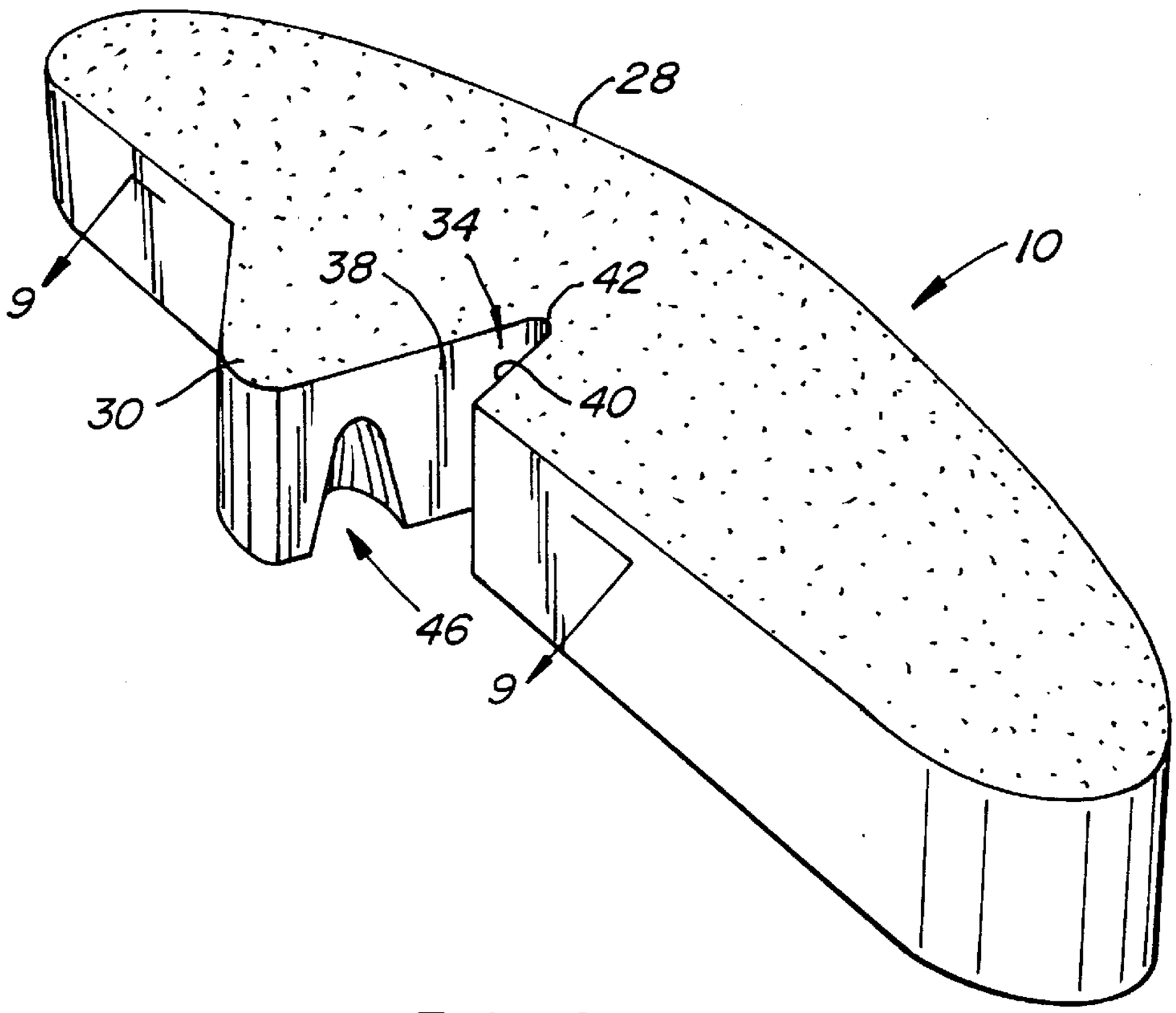
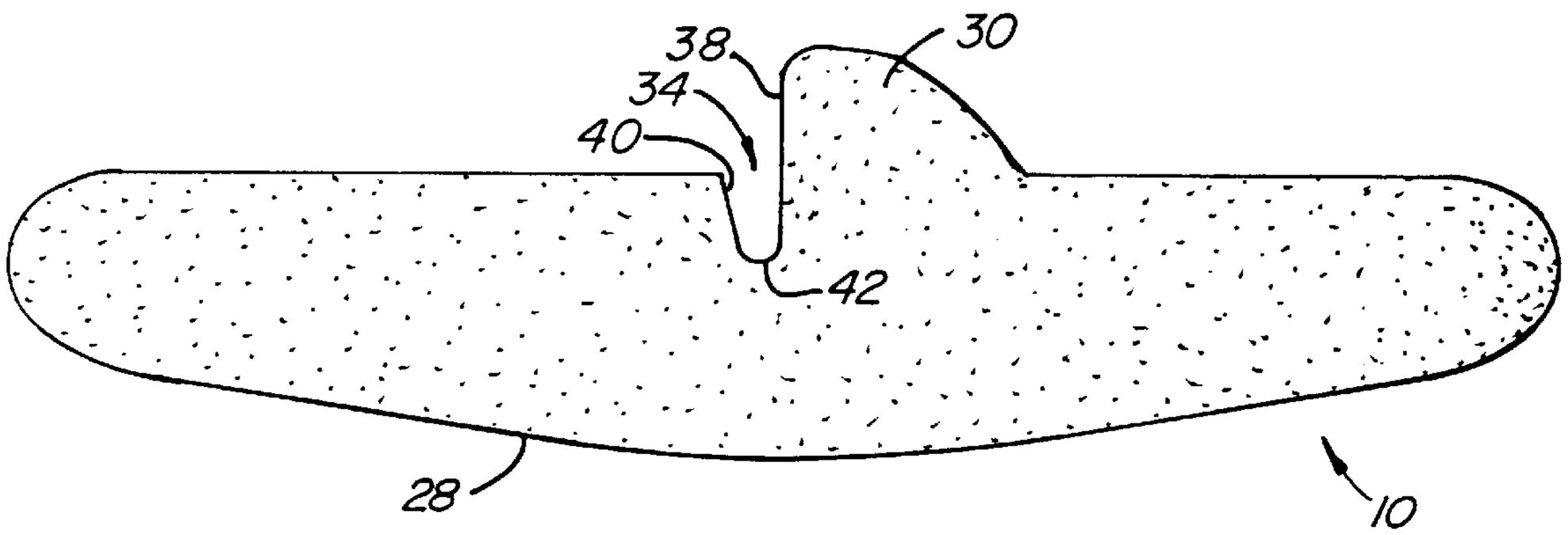


FIG. 2.



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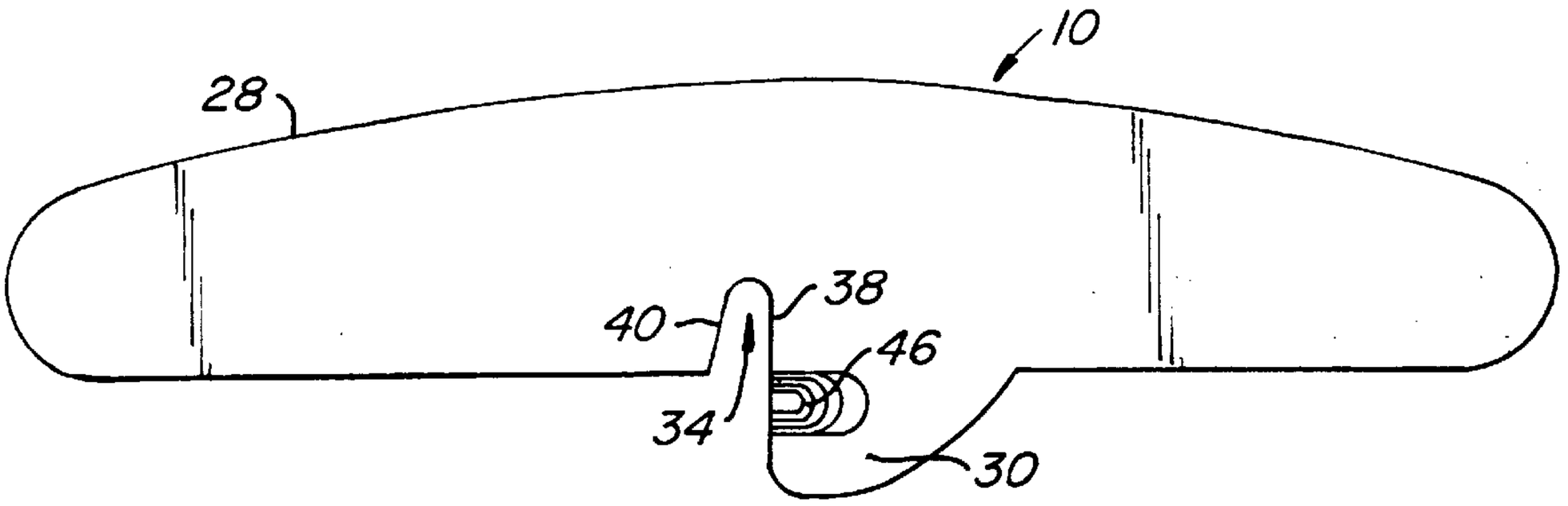

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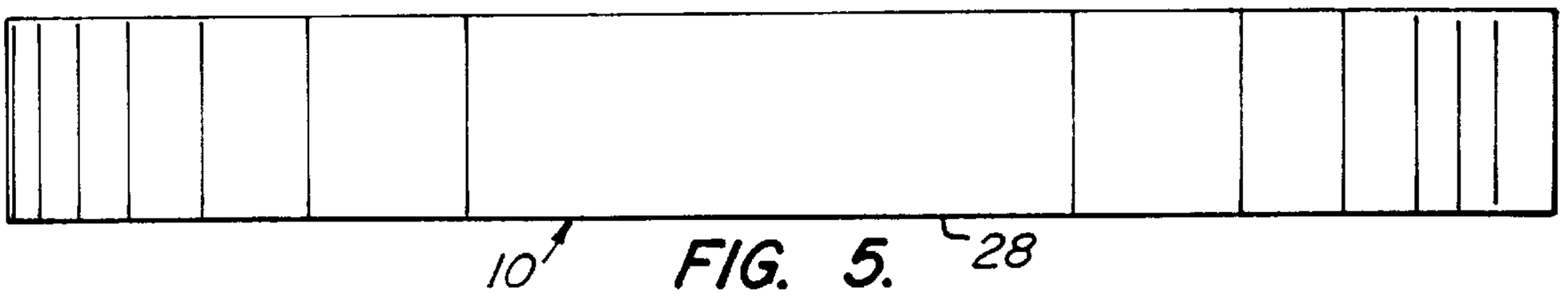


FIG. 5.

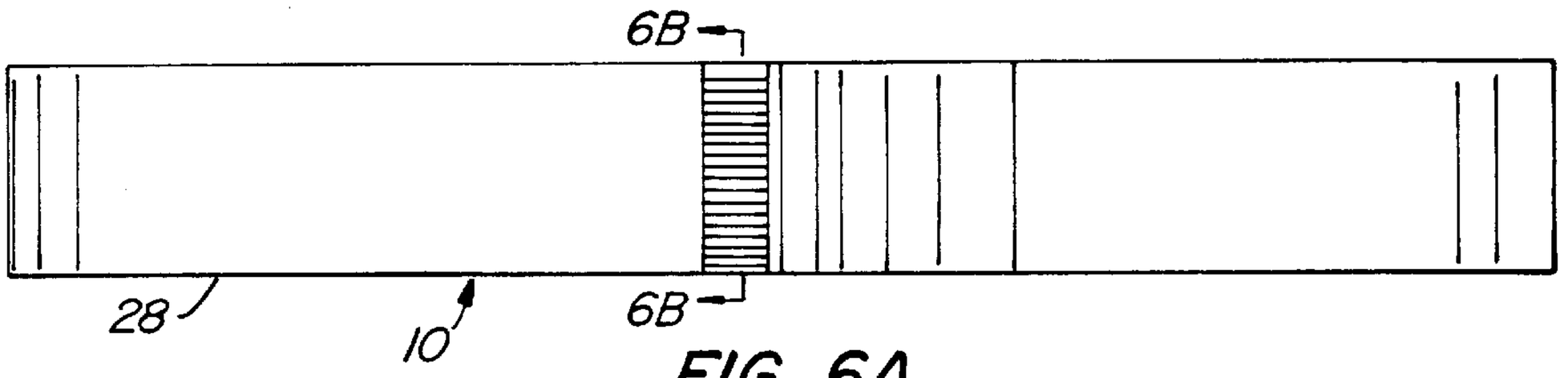


FIG. 6A.

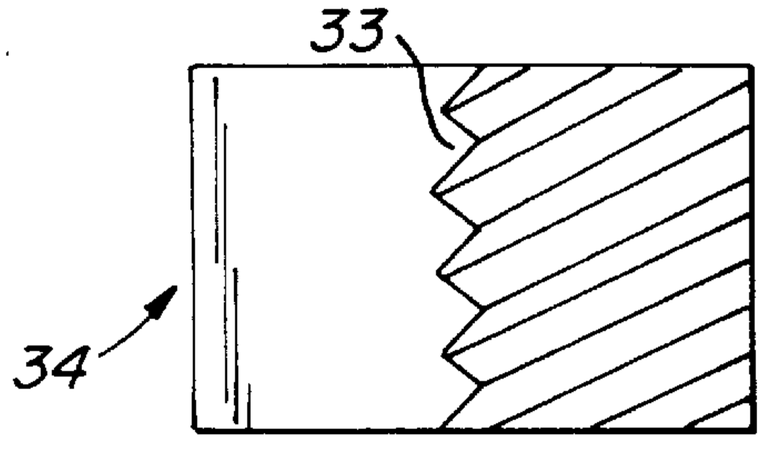


FIG. 6B.

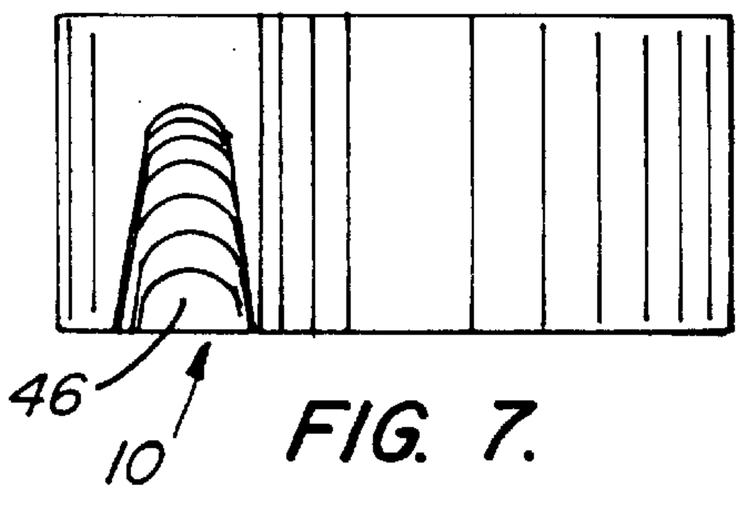
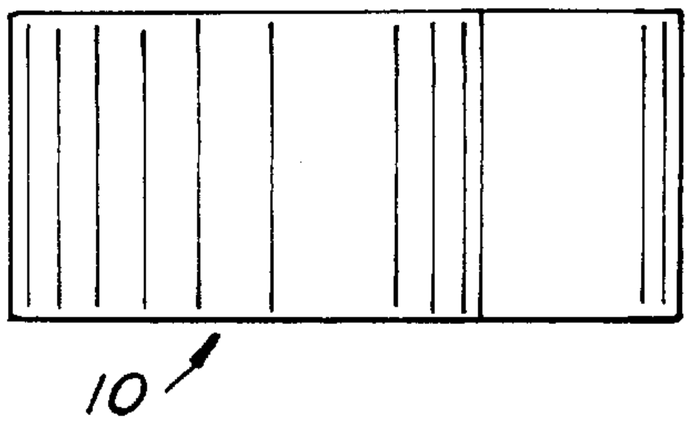


FIG. 7.



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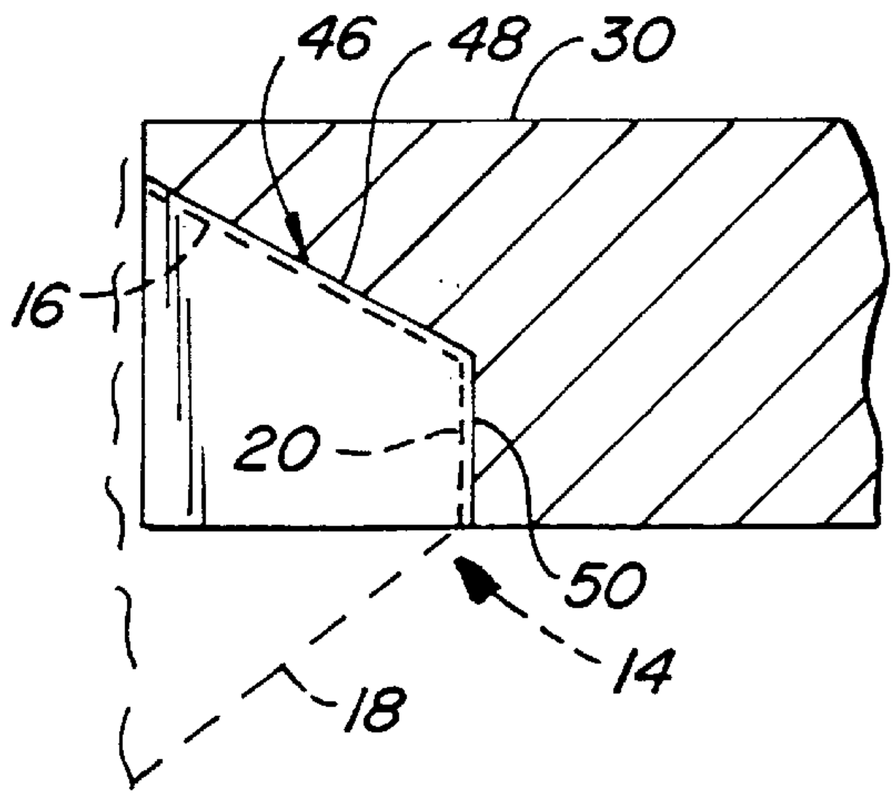

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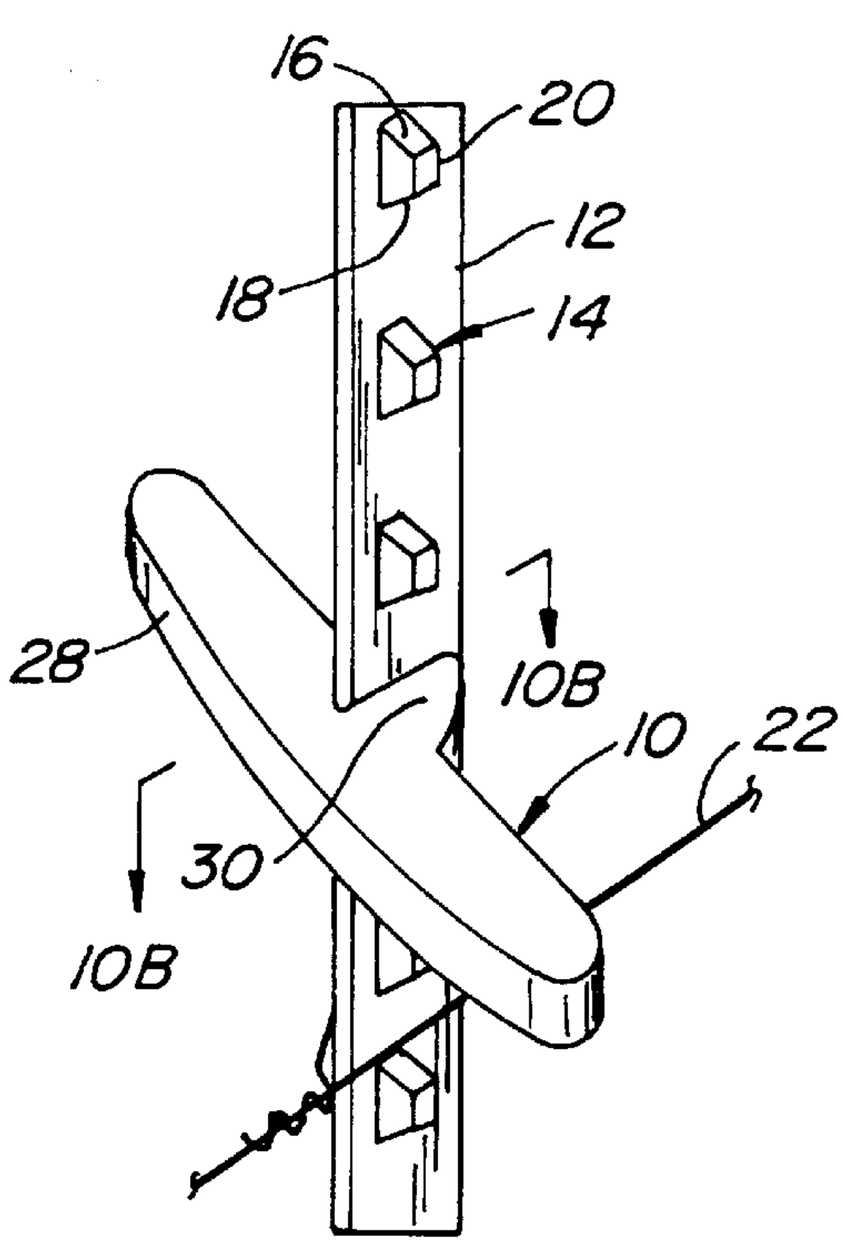


FIG. 10A.

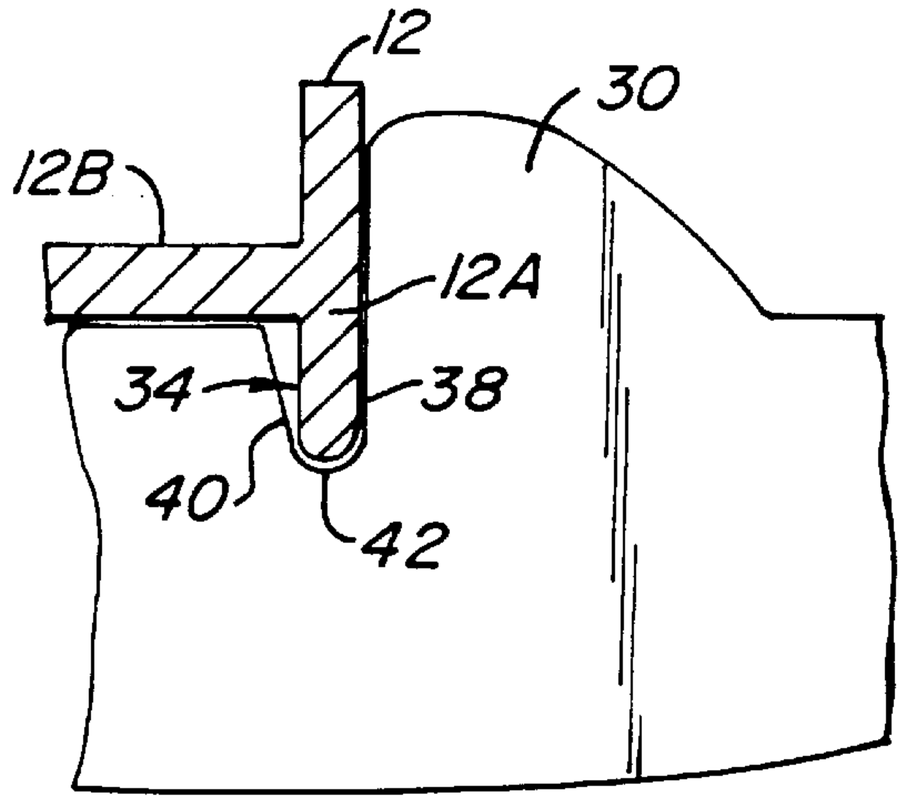
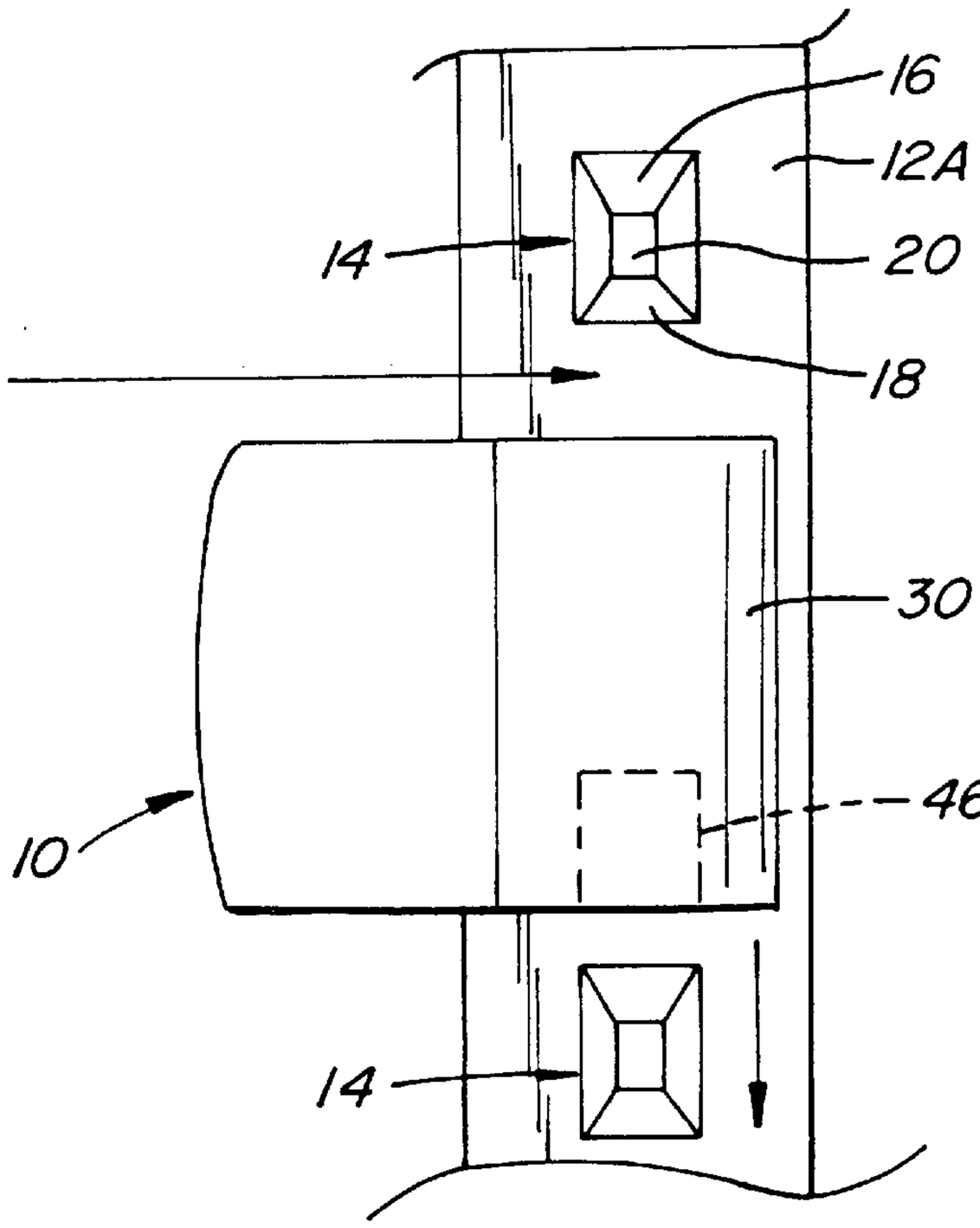


FIG. 10B.



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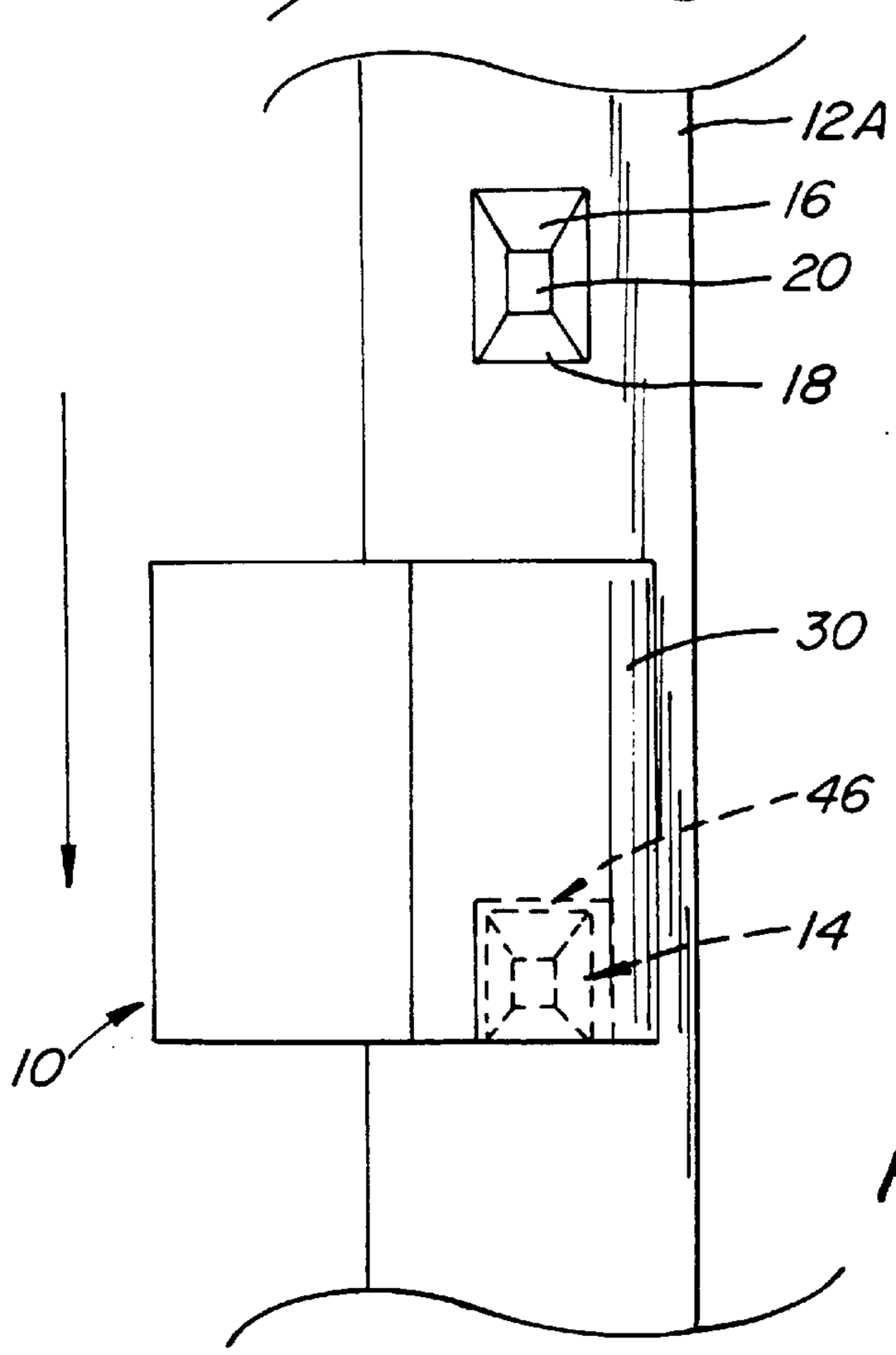

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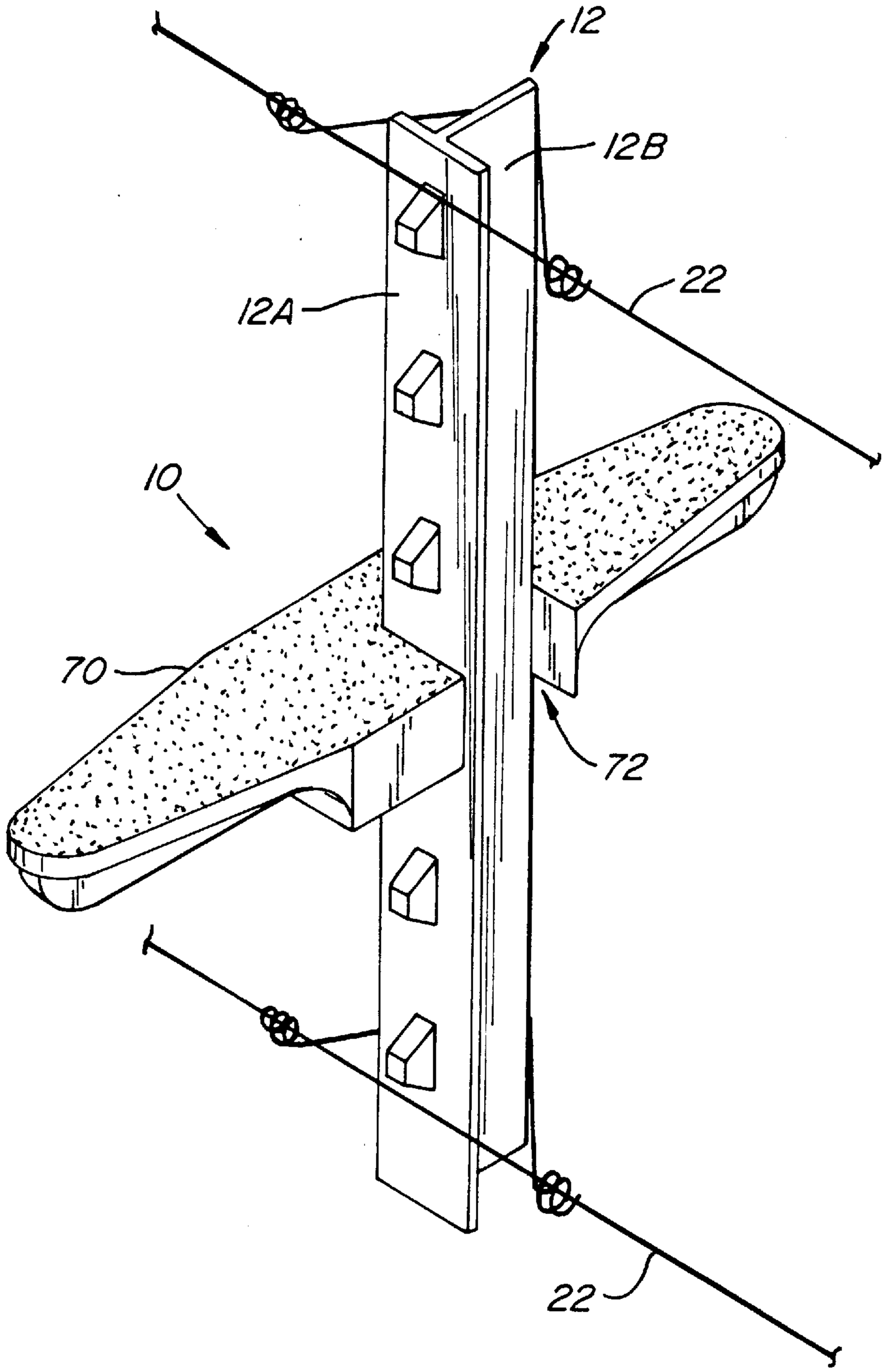
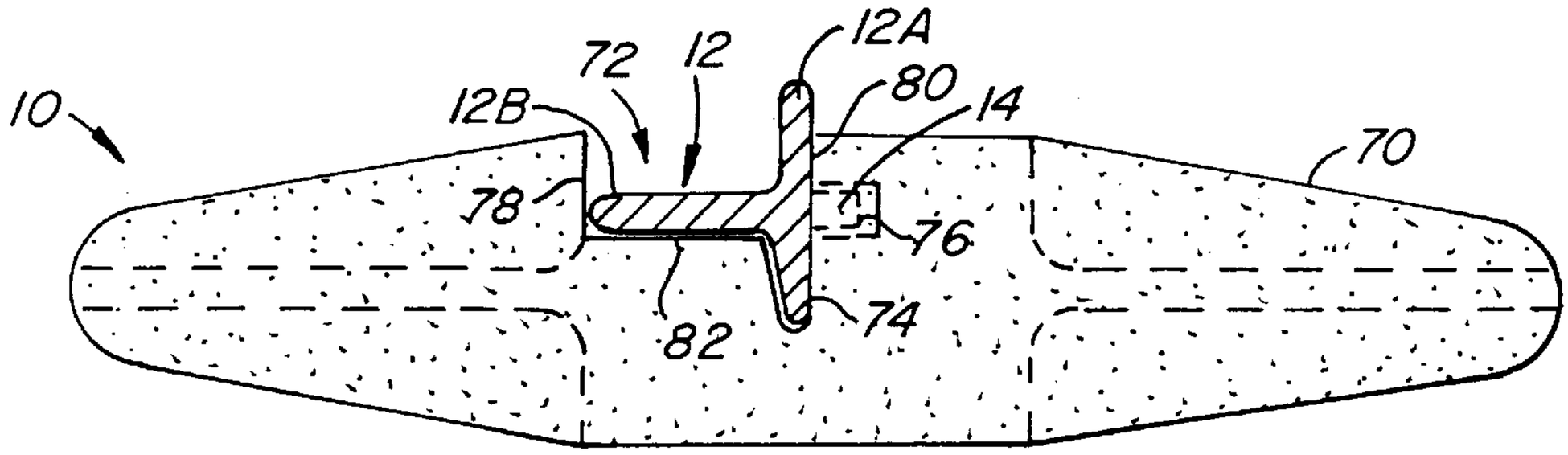


FIG. 11.



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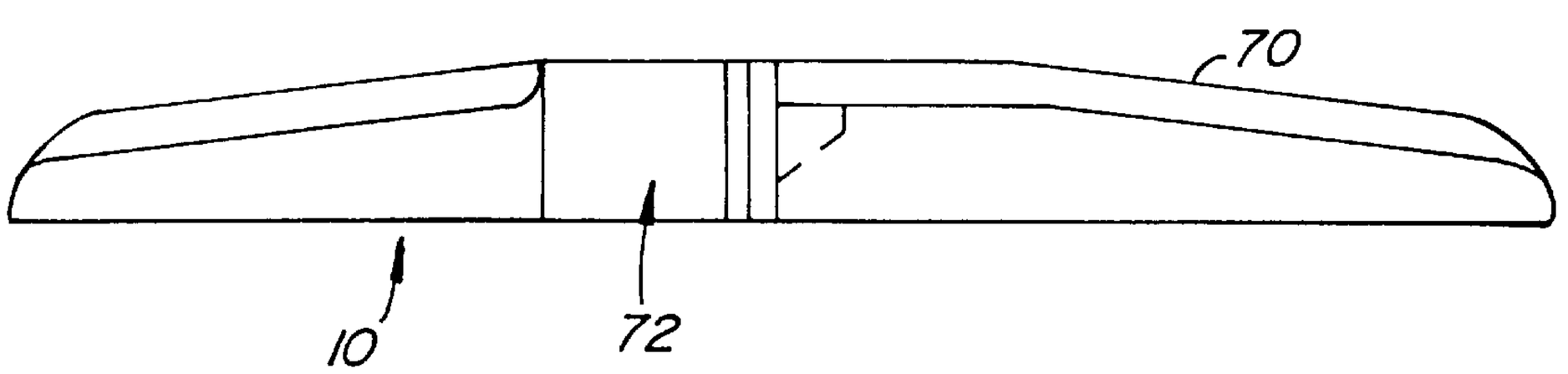

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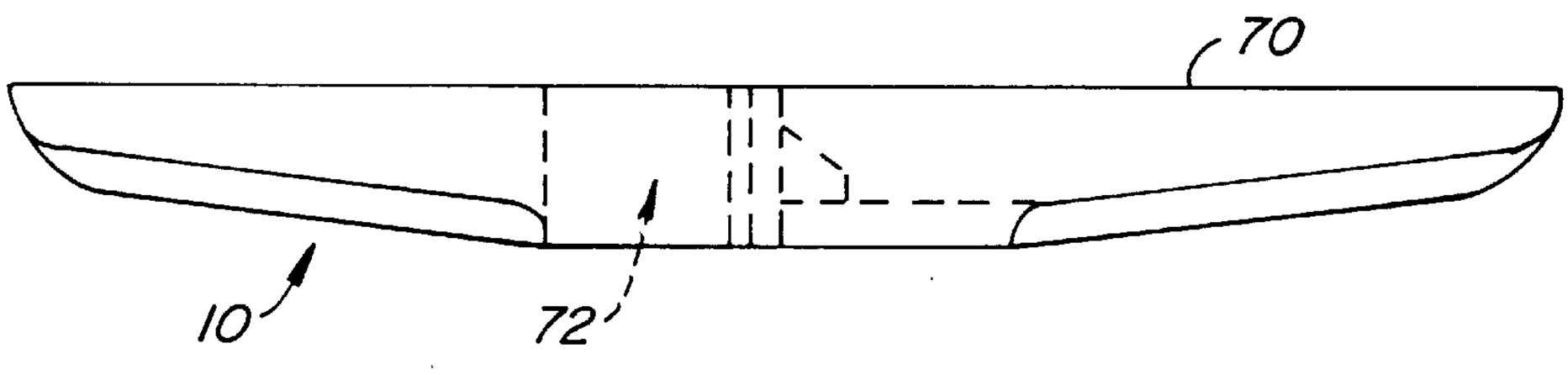

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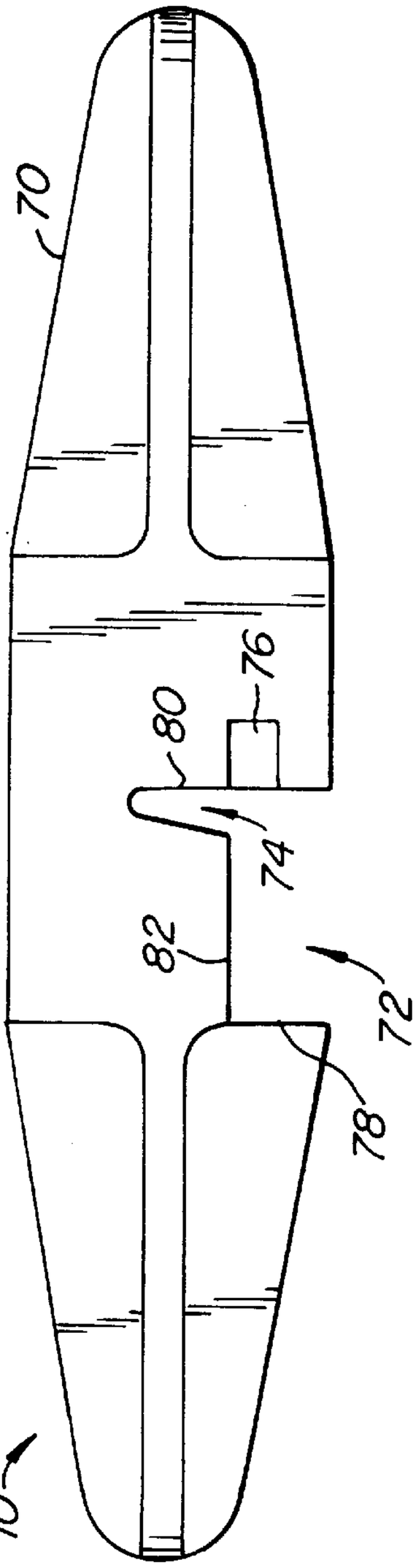

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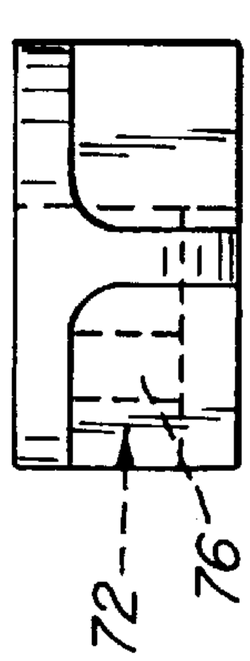

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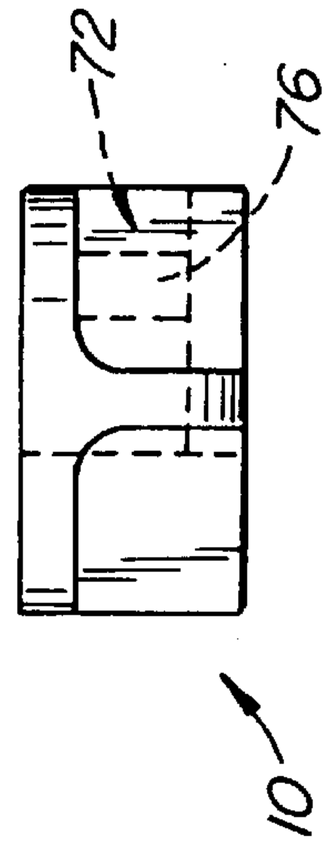
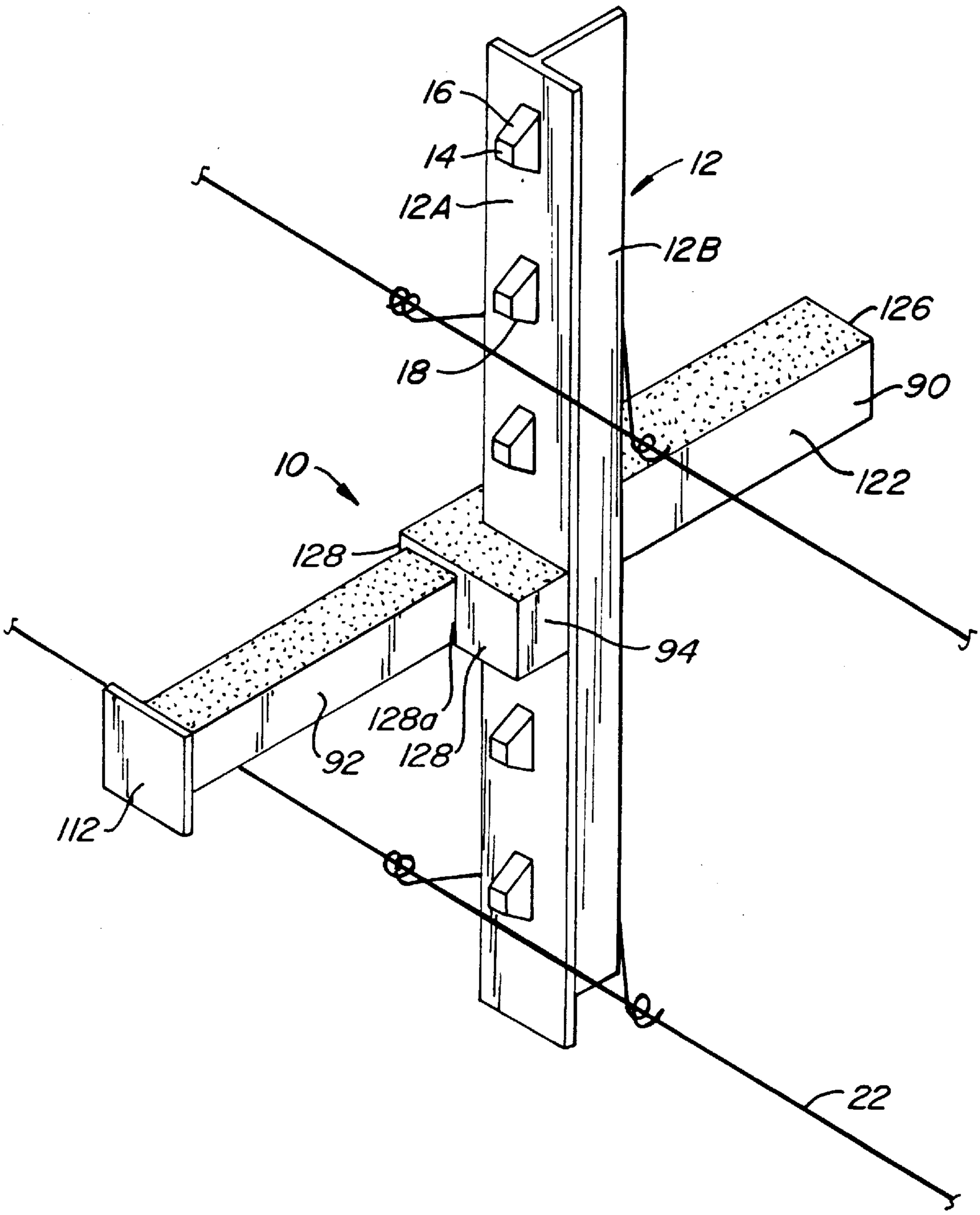


FIG. 17.



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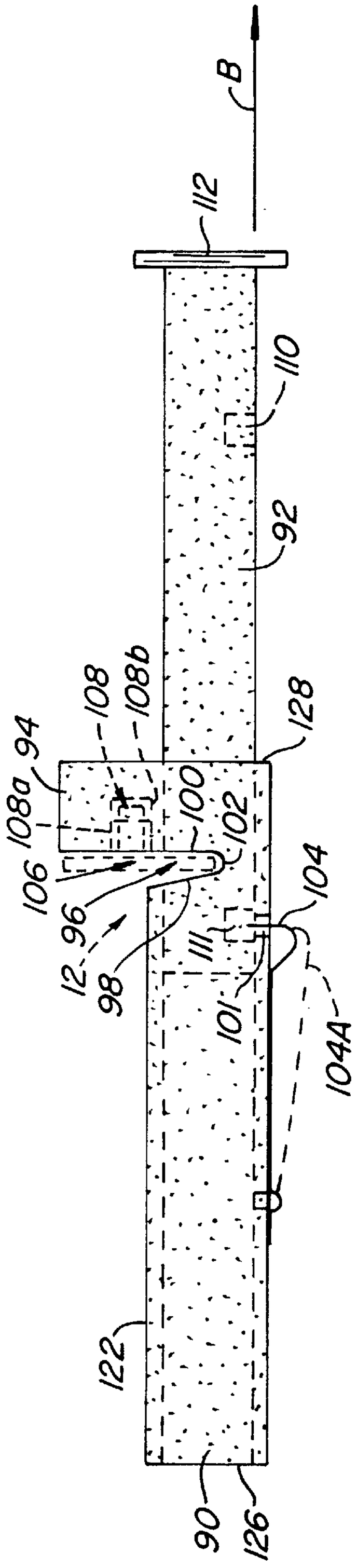
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FIG. 19.

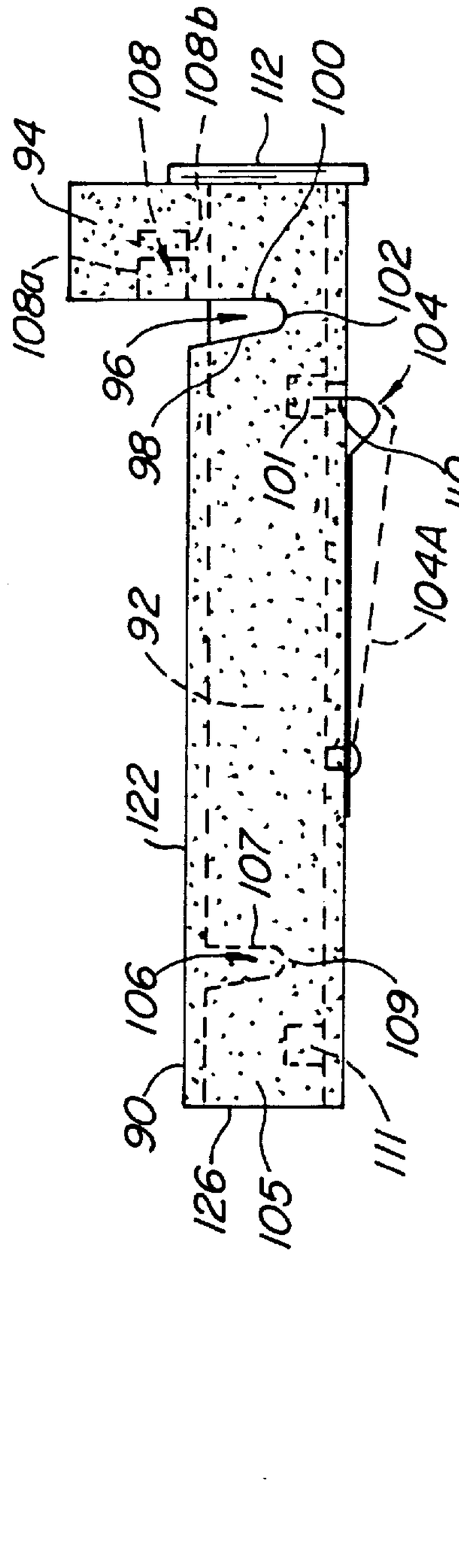
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FIG. 20.

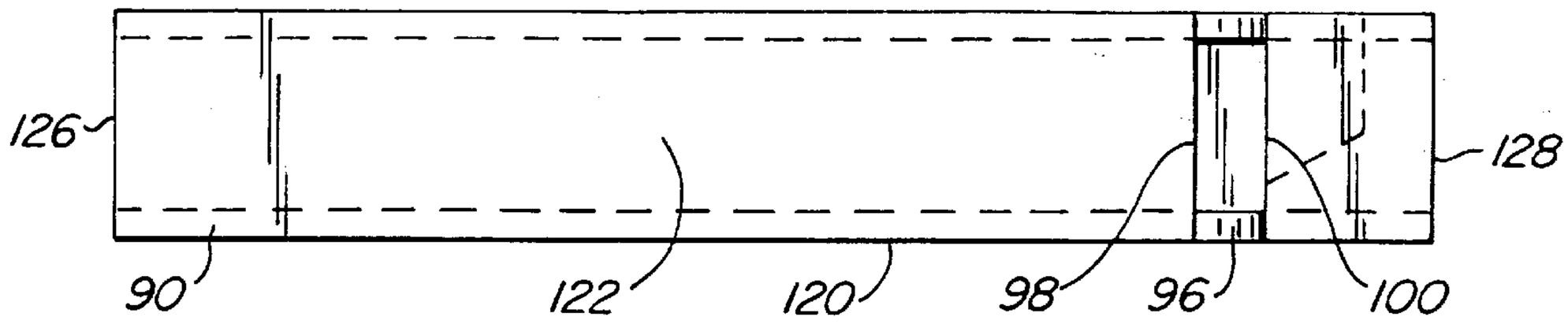
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FIG. 21.

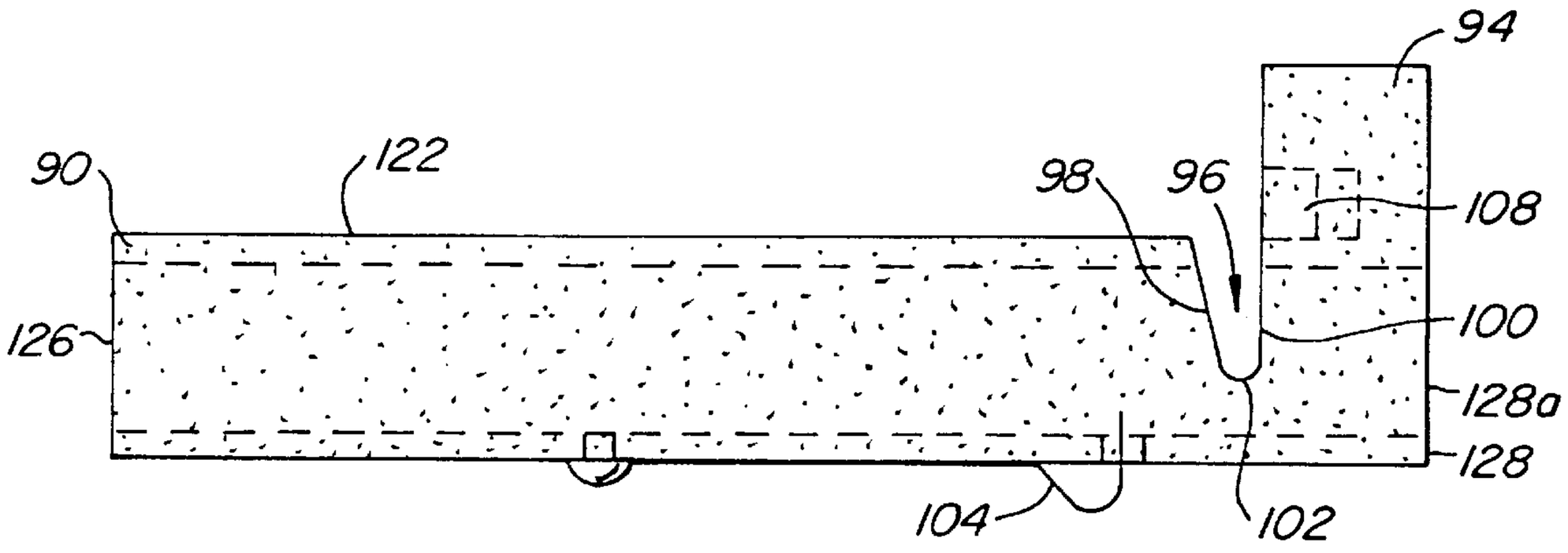
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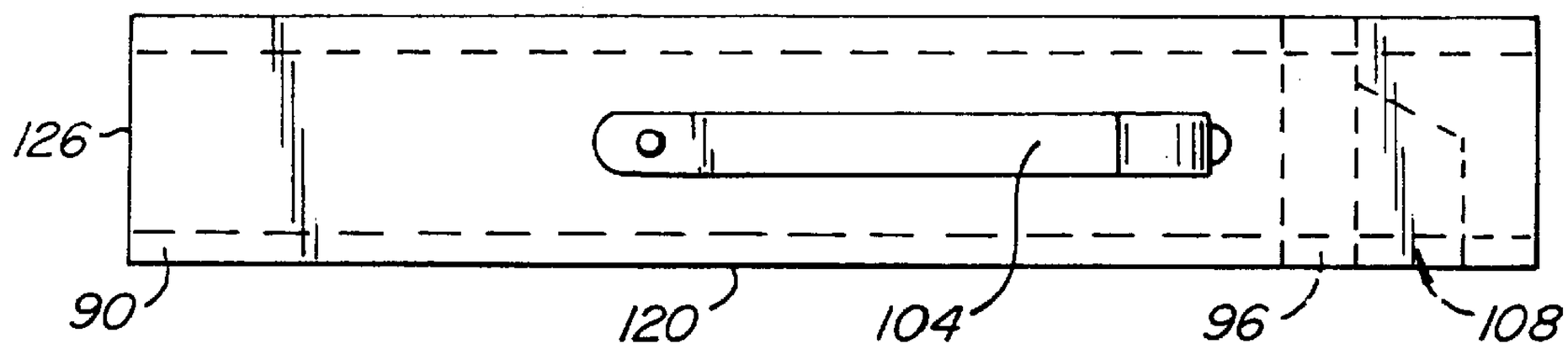
FIG. 22.



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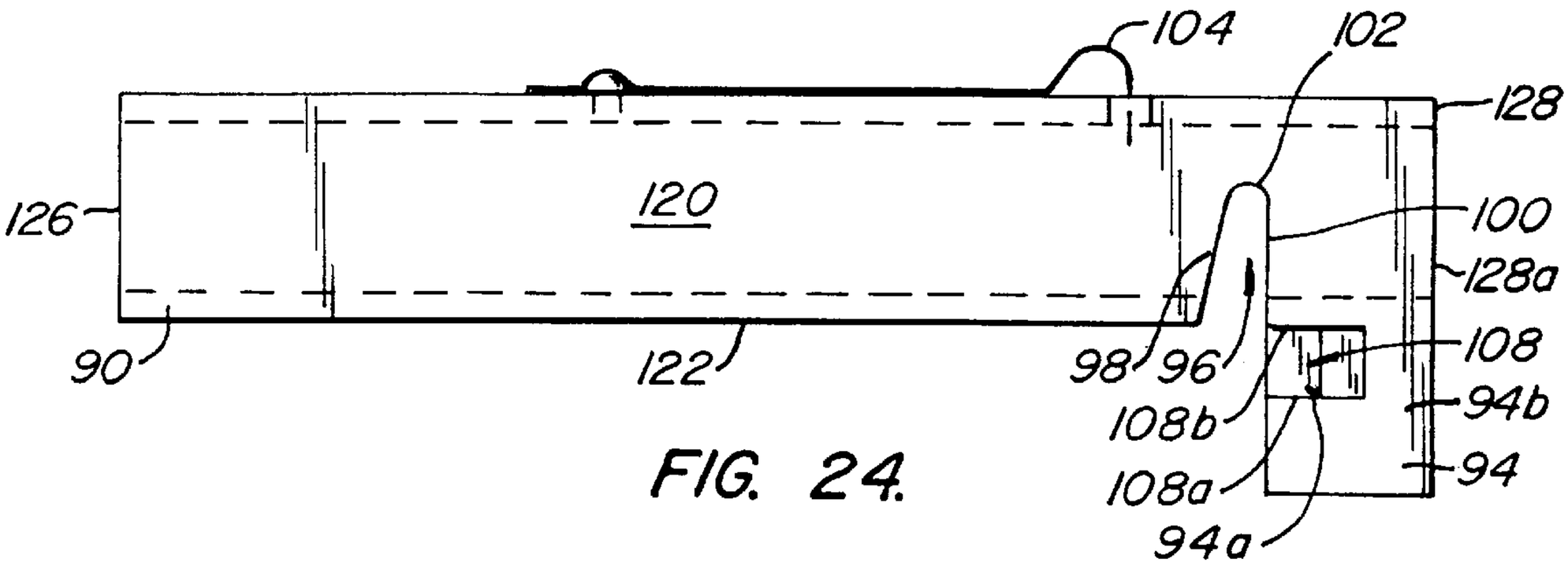

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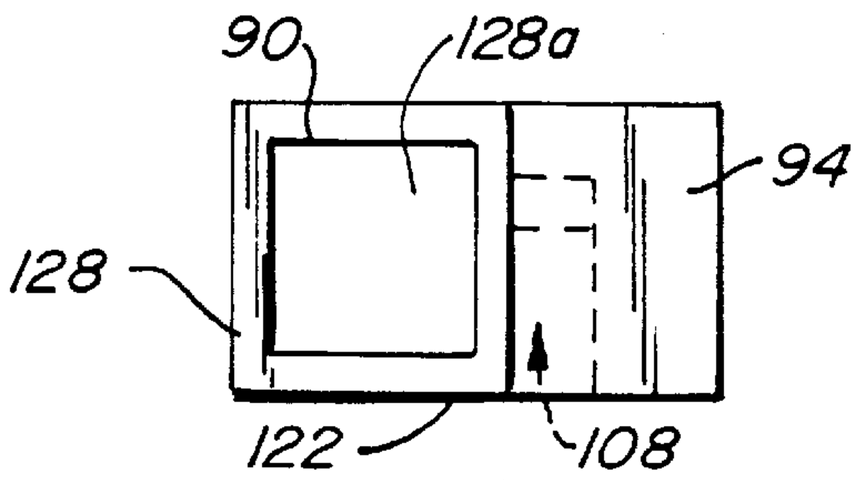
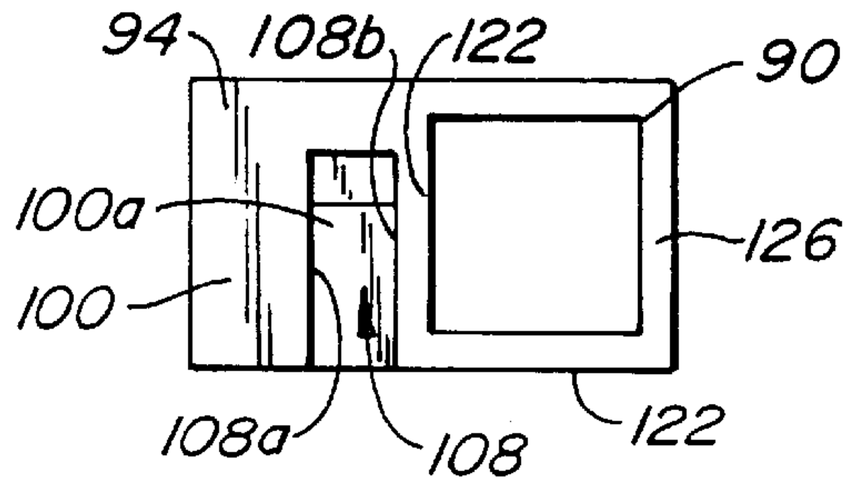


FIG. 25.



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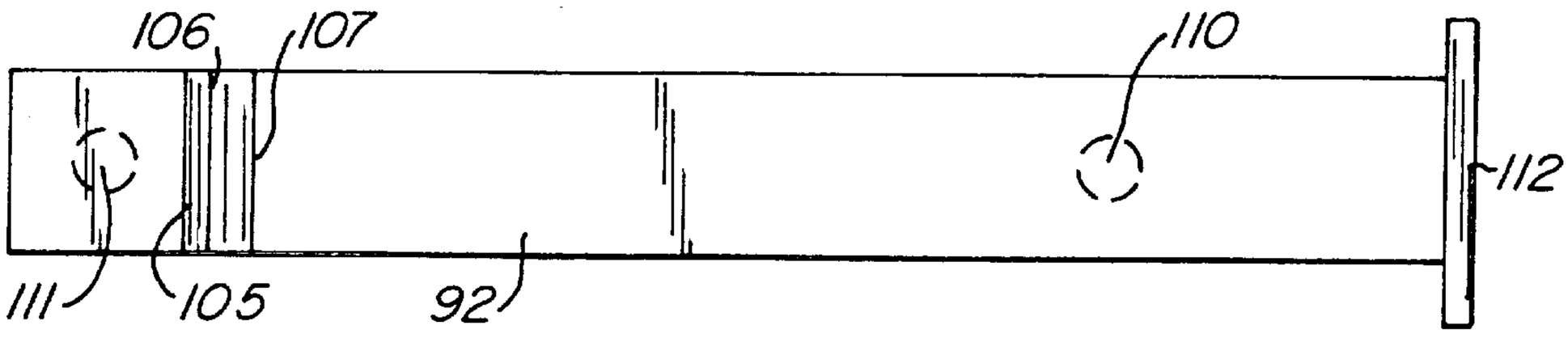

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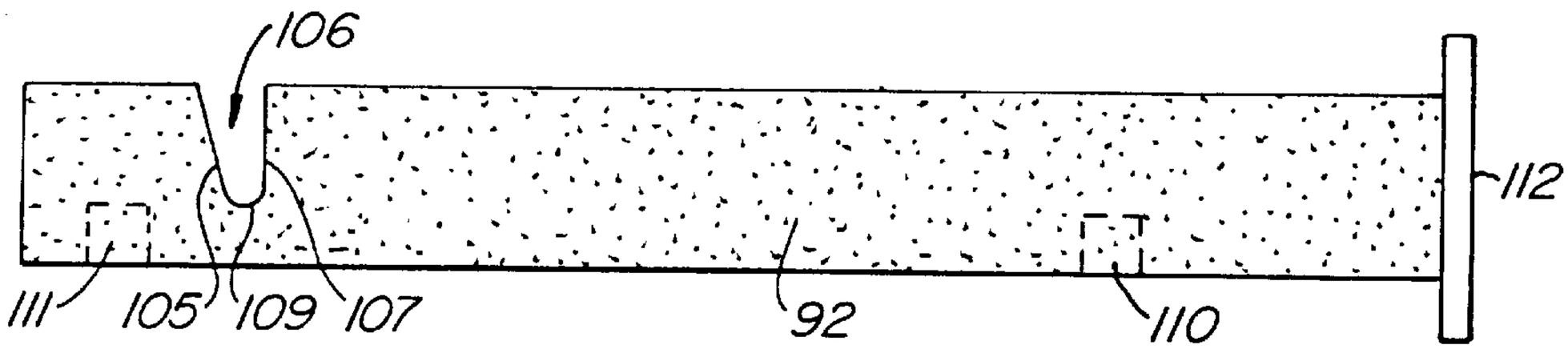

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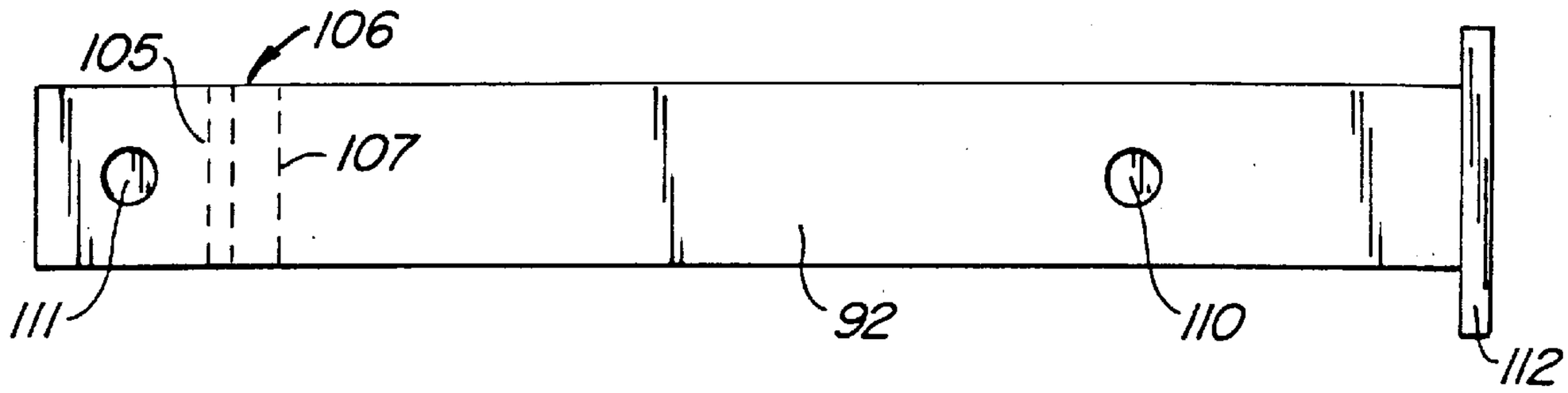
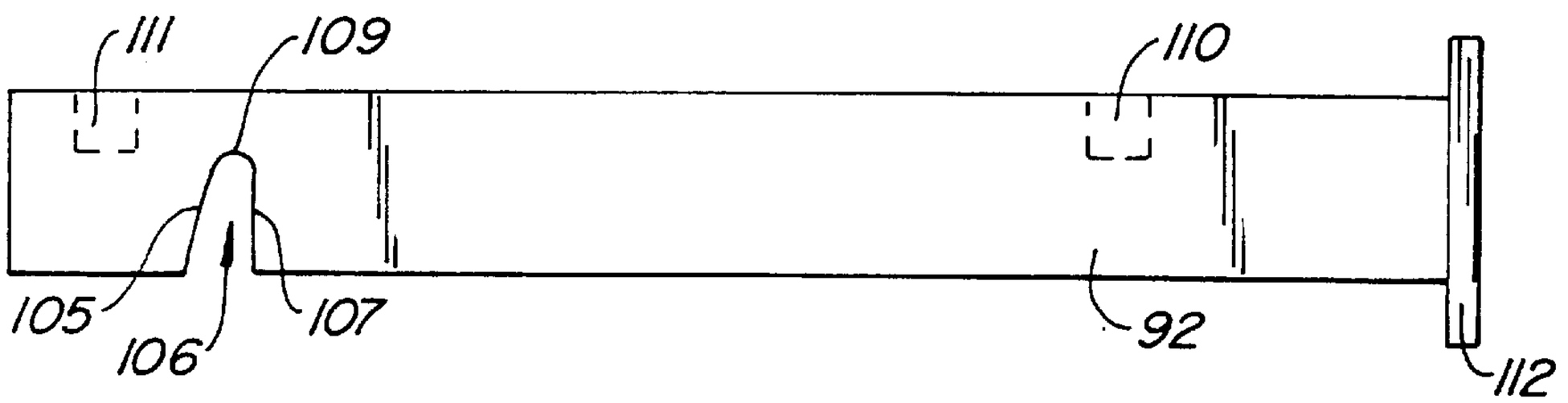


FIG. 29.



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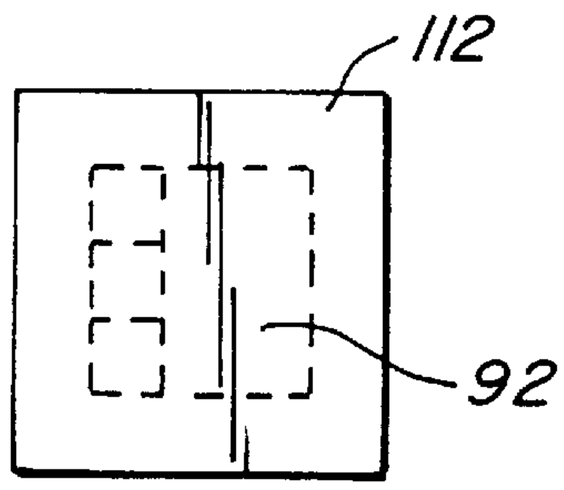

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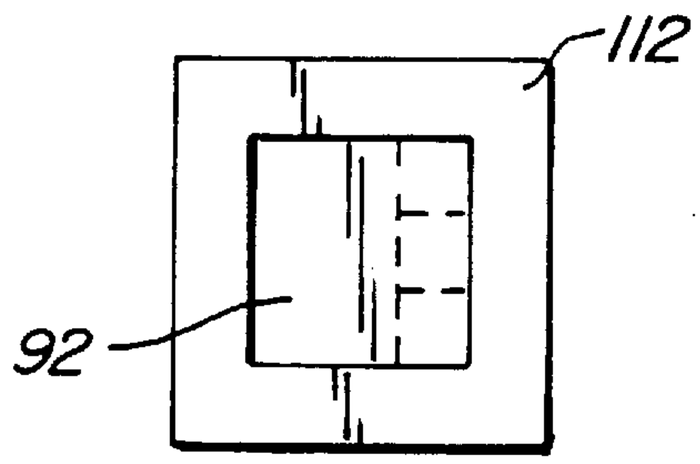

FIG. 32.

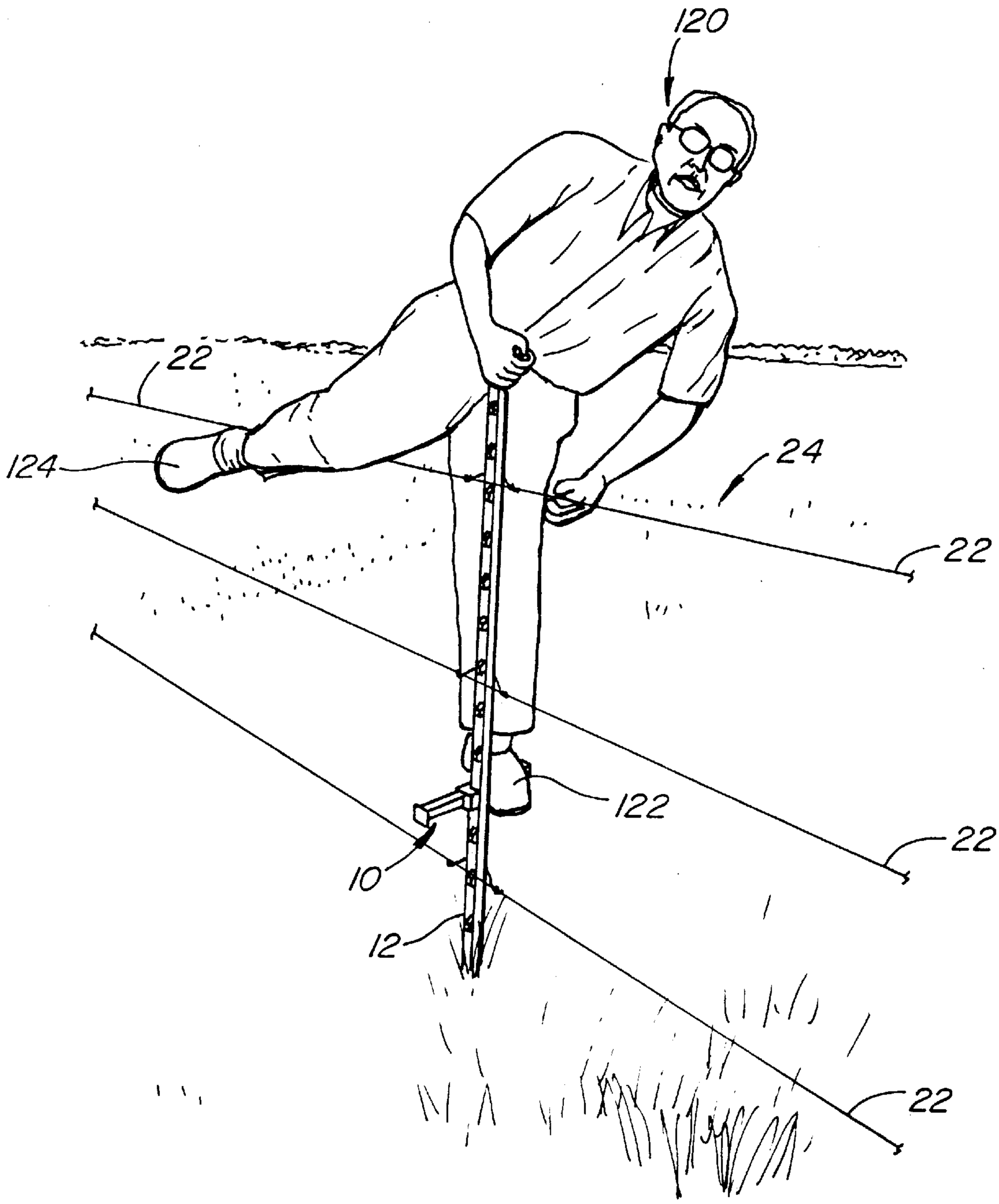

FIG. 33.

REMOVABLE STEP MEMBER AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention is related to a detachable supporting step. More particularly, the present invention provides for a detachable or removable supporting step member and method for stepping or climbing over a fence. The detachable step of the present invention is of the type which is capable of being removably secured to a post, more particularly to a post supporting wires (i.e. barb wire) in the form of a fence.

2. Description of the Prior Art

A patentability investigation was conducted and the following U.S. Patents were discovered: U.S. Pat. No. Design 42,598 to White entitled "Step For Poles"; U.S. Pat. No. 2,086,280 to Matter entitled "Support"; U.S. Pat. No. 3,008,536 to Linabery, Sr. entitled "Detachable Supporting Step"; U.S. Pat. No. 3,259,209 to Brown entitled "Ladder"; U.S. Pat. No. 3,561,563 to Harsh entitled "Portable Post Step"; U.S. Pat. No. 4,754,841 to Koffski entitled "Portable Step"; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,407,025 to Nickel entitled "Gripping Device for Timber".

U.S. Pat. No. 2,086,280 to Matter teaches a support member having a horizontal supporting member with a depending brace member integrally bound thereto and generally at a right angle thereto. An upwardly projecting stop is secured to the horizontal step. A widened flange is integrally bound to the step and includes a generally U-shaped opening (see FIG. **4**) wherein a stilt may be lodged.

U.S. Pat. No. Design 42,598 to White is an ornamental design for a step for poles and includes a generally rectangular opening (see FIG. **1**) wherein a pole may slideably lodge. The rectangular opening is defined by a side wall with a plurality of teeth which is to engage a pole.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,008,536 to Linabary Sr. discloses a detachable support step having a body member including a top flange having a horizontal flange secured at one end thereof and a clamping element secured at another end thereof. A second clamping element is secured to a lower surface of the flange of a vertical sign post, or the like is slideably disposed between the clamping element and the second clamping element while being flushed against the vertical side flange and the horizontal top flange.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,259,209 to Brown discloses a ladder including a detachable step. The step includes U-bend hanger, a shank integrally bound to the U-bend hanger, and a cross bar bound to an end of the shank. Opposed ends of the cross bar include a pair of arms. A stud is integrally bound to the shank and protrudes generally normal therefrom.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,561,563 to Harsh discloses (see FIG. **2**) a step formed with a notch opening. A post lodges within the notch opening.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,754,841 to Koffski discloses a step having an opening where through a post slideably passes.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,407,025 to Nickel discloses a gripping device for timber. The grouping device is formed from a single length of steel rod having a generally U-shaped opening wherein timber lodges. One side of the U-shaped opening is formed with a wall, having bound thereto a toothed angle member with a series of teeth which engage the timber.

None of the foregoing prior art U.S. patents teach the particular removable or detachable supporting step member and method of the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention accomplishes its desired objects by broadly providing an apparatus for stepping or climbing over a fence, comprising:

a. a stepping means for receiving a user's foot;

b. a step recess means disposed in the stepping means for removably engaging a post;

c. a lug means integrally extending from the stepping means for supporting the stepping means against a post; and

d. a lug recess means disposed in the lug means for removably attaching to a post.

The present invention more specifically provides a stepping member that is removably attached to a post. The post comprises at least one wire which constitutes a portion of a fence. The post, moreover, comprises a plurality of post knobs capable of removably receiving the step member. The step member is geometrically defined by a platform comprising a base, a top opposing the base, and walls connecting the base to the top. The step member comprises a recess for removably engaging the post. A lug provides support to the step member when pressure is applied to the step member in a downwardly direction. A lug recess is disposed in the lug for detachably receiving the post knobs.

In an alternative embodiment, the present invention accomplishes its objects by broadly providing, in combination with a post, an apparatus for stepping or climbing over a fence, comprising:

a. a post having at least one wire secured thereto (e.g. a barb wired fence); and

b. a step member for detachably connecting to the post, wherein the step member has a structure defining a cavity, a step recess communicating with the cavity, and a knob recess also communicating with the cavity.

In this embodiment, the step member, although harboring a similar platform shape as the above embodiment, comprises different elements. First, it includes a cavity on the step member for receiving the post. Second, a step recess communicates with the cavity and removably receives and engages the post. Third, a knob recess is disposed in the structure of the apparatus and communicates with the cavity for detachably receiving the post knobs.

In another embodiment, the present invention accomplishes its objects by broadly providing, in combination with a post, an apparatus for stepping or climbing over a fence comprising:

a. a hollow casing means for detachably attaching to a post; and

b. an arm means, slidably engaged to the hollow casing means, for receiving a user's foot.

This embodiment more specifically provides a stepping member that comprises two major components. The first component is a hollow case having a structure including a step recess, a lug, and a lug recess. The step recess is for removably receiving the post; the lug is for providing support to the hollow case when pressure is being applied in a downwardly direction by a user's foot; and the lug recess, disposed in the lug, is for detachably receiving the post knobs. The hollow case additionally has a case aperture and a catch assembly secured thereto for releasably locking the arm means or slidable extender through the case aperture.

The catch assembly may be a pin member or a spring pin assembly. The second component is a slidable extender capable of receiving a user's foot. The slidable extender comprises an arm recess for aligning with the step recess when the slidable extender is extended out of the hollow case. The arm recess, when aligned with the step recess, removably receives the post. The slidable arm extender additionally comprises at least a pair of pin recesses for being aligned with the case aperture and releasably receiving and engaging with the catch assembly.

The present invention also accomplishes its desired objectives by broadly providing a method for stepping or climbing over a fence, comprising the steps of:

a. providing a post having at least one wire secured thereto (e.g. a barb wired fence);

b. detachably securing a step assembly against the post of step (a);

c. placing a first foot on the step assembly;

d. swinging a second foot over the wires;

e. placing the second foot on the step assembly; and

f. removing the first foot from the step assembly and swinging the first foot over at least one wire for stepping over a fence.

The step assembly in step (b) of the immediate above method may encompass any of the three different aforementioned embodiments.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a step member which may be readily removably secured to a fence post in order for a person to climb over a fence.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for climbing over a fence, preferably a barbed wire fence.

These, together with the various ancillary objects and features which will become apparent to those skilled in the art as the following description proceeds, are attained by this novel step member and method, a preferred embodiment thereof shown with reference to the accompanying drawings, by way of example only, wherein:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of one embodiment of the stepping structure of the step member of the present invention releasably engaged to a post member having a plurality of post lugs or wire stops integrally bound thereto and including a wire secured thereto;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the step member of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a top plan view of the step member of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is a bottom plan view of the step member of FIG. **2** illustrating a lug recess which is for engaging one of the post lugs or wire stops;

FIG. **5** is a front elevational view of the step member of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **6**A is a rear elevational view of the step member of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **6**B is a vertical sectional view taken in direction of the arrows and along the plane of line **6**B—**6**B in FIG. **6**A.

FIG. **7** is an end elevational view of the step member of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **8** is an end elevational view of the step member of FIG. **2**, taken at an end which is opposed to the end shown in FIG. **7**;

FIG. **9** is an enlarged vertical sectional view taken in direction of the arrows and along the plane of line **9**—**9** in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **10**A is another perspective view of the embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **10**B is a horizontal sectional view taken in direction of the arrows and along the plane of line **10**B—**10**B in FIG. **10**A;

FIG. **10**C demonstrates how a user commences to removably attach the step assembly to the post;

FIG. **10**D depicts a method step, subsequent to the method step illustrated in FIG. **10**C, demonstrating how a user further removably attaches the step assembly to the post;

FIG. **11** is a perspective view of another embodiment of a stepping structure of the step member of the present invention releaseably engaged to a post member having a plurality of post lugs or wire stops integrally bound thereto and including a pair of wires secured thereto;

FIG. **12** is a top plan view of the step member of FIG. **11** with the post received in the step cavity and the wire stop engaged the recess;

FIG. **13** is a rear elevational view of the step member of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **14** is a front elevational view of the step member of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **15** is a bottom plan view of the step member of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **16** is an end elevational view of the step member of FIG. **11**;

FIG. **17** is an end elevational view of the step member of FIG. **11**, taken at an end which is opposed to the end shown in FIG. **16**;

FIG. **18** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the stepping structure of the step member of the present invention releaseably engaged to a post member having a plurality of post lugs or wire stops integrally bound thereto and including a pair of wires secured thereto;

FIG. **19** is a top plan view of the step member of FIG. **18** with the slidable extender or sliding member having been slid out of the hollow body of the step member and with the catch or engaging means passing through an opening in the hollow body of the step member and protruding into a rear or back recess of the slidable extender;

FIG. **20** is a top plan view of the step member of FIG. **18** in a closed or "carry" position with the slidable extender being slid entirely into the hollow body of the step member and including the catch or engaging means passing through a recess in the hollow body and projecting into a front recess of the extender to lock the slidable extender within the hollow body of the step member;

FIG. **21** is a rear elevational view of the hollow body of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **22** is a top plan view of the hollow body of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **23** is a front elevational view of the hollow body of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **24** is a bottom plan view of the hollow body of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **25** is an end elevational view of the hollow body of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **26** is an end elevational view of the hollow body of the step member of FIG. **18**, taken at an end which is opposed to the end shown in FIG. **25**;

FIG. **27** is a rear elevational view of the slidable extender or sliding member of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **28** is a top plan view of the slidable extender or sliding member of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **29** is a front elevational view of the slidable extender or sliding member of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **30** is a bottom plan view of the slidable extender or sliding member of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **31** is an end elevational view of the slidable extender or sliding member of the step member of FIG. **18**;

FIG. **32** is an end elevational view of the slidable extender or sliding member of the step member of FIG. **18**, taken at an end which is opposed to the end depicted in FIG. **31**; and

FIG. **33** is a perspective view of the embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG. **1** with a person or user employing the invention to climb over a wire fence.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Referring in detail now to the drawings wherein similar parts of the invention are identified by like reference numerals, and initially referring to FIGS. **1–10**B for one preferred embodiment of the invention, there is seen a stepping structure or step member, generally illustrated as **10**, removably or detachably secured to a post **12** (see FIGS. **1** and **10**A). The post **12** is a conventional post having a plurality of post knobs or wire stops **14** integrally bound thereto. The post **12** is generally T-shaped in horizontal cross-section, having a structure consisting of a pair of wings **12**A and **12**B which are integrally bound to each other. The wire stops **14** are generally trapezoidally shaped in a side elevational view with a pair of inwardly sloping sides **16** and **18** terminating in an end surface **20** (see FIG. **1**). The wire stop **14** are for preventing wires, such as wires **22** in FIGS. **1**, **11**, **18**, and **33**, from sliding downwardly. A plurality of posts **12** and wires **22** typically make up a fence, generally illustrated as **24** in FIG. **33**. The step member **10** of the present invention may be manufactured of any suitable material, including steel, plastic, wood, etc.

Continuing to refer to FIGS. **1–10**B for a preferred embodiment of the step member **10** illustrated therein, there is seen the step member **10** comprising a generally integral structure **28** including an ear or lug **30** protruding therefrom and a recess **34** formed therein for receiving the wing member **12**A of the post **12** (see FIG. **10**B). The recess **34** is defined by opposed side walls **38** and **40** secured to an end wall **42**. The side walls **38** and **40** and the end wall **42** may be structurally defined by teeth **33**, a illustrated in FIG. **6**B, to produce a higher coefficient of friction. As shown in FIG. **2**, side wall **38** extends outwardly to form part of the lug **30**. Side wall **38** is interrupted by a lug recess **46** (see FIGS. **2** and **9**). Lug recess **46** includes a sloping top **48** and a back **50** for respectively mating with and contacting sloping side **16** and end surface **20** (see FIG. **9**). It is to be understood that the spirit and scope of the present invention would include a lug recess **46** without a sloping top, that slopes, such as a top that is generally perpendicular to the back **50** and generally parallel to the ground when the step member **10** is secured to the post **12**. To secure this embodiment of the step member **10** to the post **12** as best shown in FIGS. **10**C and **10**D, the wing member **12**A is passed into recess **34** simultaneously with the lug **30** being passed between any two contiguous post knobs or wire stops **14**. When the lowermost of the two contiguous wire stops **14** is aligned or registered with the lug recess **46**, the integral structure **28** of the step member **10** is moved and slid downwardly along the wing member **12**A to cause the lowermost wire stop **14** to pass into the lug recess **46** and to respectively flush the sloping side **16** and end surface **20** of the wire stop **14** against the sloping top **48** and back **50** of the lug recess **46**. For releasing the wire stop **14** from within the lug recess **46**, the procedure is reversed.

Referring now to FIGS. **11–17** for another preferred embodiment of the step member **10**, there is seen the step member **10** comprising a generally integral structure **70** including a cavity **72** indented therein and a step recess **74** and knob recess **76** also formed therein. The cavity **72** is for receiving the wing member **12**B and the step recess **74** is for receiving the wing member **12**A of the post **12**. The cavity **72** is defined by opposed side walls **78** and **80** secured to an adjoining wall **82**. As shown in FIG. **12**, side wall **80** is integrally bound to form part of step recess **74**. Side wall **80** is interrupted by the knob recess **76**. To secure this embodiment of the step member **10** to the post **12**, the wing member **12**A is passed into step recess **74** simultaneously with the cavity **72** being passed between any two contiguous post knobs or wire stops **14**. When the lowermost of the two contiguous wire stops **14** is aligned or registered with the knob recess **76**, the integral structure **70** of the step member **10** is moved and slid downwardly along the wing member **12**A to cause the lowermost wire stop **14** to pass into knob recess **76**. For releasing the wire stop **14** from within the knob recess **76**, the procedure is reversed.

Referring now to FIGS. **18–32** for yet another preferred embodiment of the step member **10**, there is seen the step member **10** comprising a hollow case **90** including a slidable extender or sliding member **92** slidably disposed therein. An ear or lug **94** is integrally bound to and protrudes from the hollow case **90**. A recess **96** is formed in the hollow case **90** for receiving the wing member **12**A of the post **12**. The case recess **96** is defined by opposed side walls **98** and **100** secured to an end wall **102**. As shown in FIG. **19**, side wall **100** extends outwardly to form part of the lug **94**. Side wall **100** is interrupted by a lug recess **108**. The hollow case **90** additionally comprises a catch assembly **104** for releasably locking the slidable extender **92**. The catch assembly **104** may be a pin member or a spring pin assembly, or any other latching assembly that is capable of providing the function of the catch assembly **104**. At least a portion of the catch assembly **104** is removably inserted in a case aperture **101** in the hollow case **90**. The slidable extender **92** comprises an arm recess **106** for aligning with the case recess **96** when the slidable extender is drawn out of the hollow case **90** (see FIG. **19**). The arm recess **106** is defined by opposed side walls **105** and **107** secured to an end wall **109**. The arm recess **106**, in conjunction with the case recess **96**, receives the wing member **12**A. The slidable extender **92** additionally includes a pair of pin recesses **110** and **111** for releasably engaging the catch assembly **104** for locking the slidable extender **92** to the hollow case **90**. A flange **112** is coupled to the slidable extender **92** to facilitate the operation of the slidable extender **92** for a user. To secure this embodiment of the step member **10** to the post **12**, the catch assembly **104** is moved into the dotted line representation, as illustrated by **104**A in FIG. **20**, to disengage the catch assembly **104** from the pin recess **110**. The slidable extender **92** may then be drawn out of the hollow case **90** in the direction of arrow B (see FIG. **19**). More specifically and as best shown in FIG. **19**, when the catch assembly **104** is moved out of pin recess **110** and out of the case aperture **101** and into the dotted line representation **104**A of FIG. **19**, the slidable extender **92** may be moved out of the hollow case **90**. When the slidable extender **92** is extended from the hollow case **90**, the catch assembly **104** is reengaged with pin recess **111**, thus locking the slidable extender **92** to the hollow case **90**. In this open position, the arm recess **106** is aligned with case recess **96**. The wing member **12**A is passed into the case recess **96** and the arm recess **106** simultaneously with the lug **94** being passed between any two contiguous post knobs or wire stops

14. When the lowermost of the two contiguous wire stops **14** is aligned or registered with the lug recess **108**, the hollow structure **90**, connected to the slidable extender **92**, is moved and slid downwardly along the wing member **12**A to cause the lowermost wire stop **14** to pass into the lug recess **108**. For releasing the wire stop **14** from within the lug recess **108**, the procedure is reversed.

Continuing to refer to FIG. **33** for operation of the invention and the method for climbing over a fence **24** (e.g., a barb wired fence or any type of fence holding any type of wire including chicken wire, etc.), there is seen a user **120** operating the step member **10**. As discussed above, the step member **10** is detachably connected to the post **12**. The user **120** places a first foot **122** on the step member **10**. Supporting the first foot **122** on the step member **10**, a second foot **124** is swung over the highest wire **22** and placed on the step member **10**. Supporting the second foot **124** on the step member **10**, the first foot **122** is removed and swung over the highest wire **22**. The user **120**, as a result, steps or climbs over the fence **24**.

Thus, while the present invention has been described herein with reference to particular embodiments thereof, a latitude of modification, various changes and substitutions are intended in the foregoing disclosure, and it will be appreciated that in some instances some features of the invention will be employed without a corresponding use of other features without department from the scope of the invention as set forth.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for releasably engaging a fence post comprising a step member including a step body having a first end, a second end, a body sidewall and a structure defining a body recess; extending into said body sidewall for receiving said fence post a lug member integrally bound to said step body sidewall and extending laterally, outwardly therefrom and adjacent to the body recess and having a lug bottom, a lug sidewall, and a lug recess forming a sidewall opening in said lug sidewall and a bottom opening in said lug bottom, said sidewall opening of said lug recess faces said first end of said step body.

2. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein, and said lug recess having a first recess sidewall generally parallel to said body sidewall.

3. The apparatus of claim **2** wherein said lug recess additionally includes a second recess sidewall opposed to said first recess sidewall and generally parallel to said first recess sidewall.

4. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein said structure of said step body further defines a generally hollow step body with said second end having and end opening; a body extender slidably passing through said end opening and into said hollow step body; and a catch assembly secured to said step body for releasably engaging said body extender.

5. The apparatus of claim **3** wherein said structure of said step body further defines a generally hollow step body with said second end having and end opening; a body extender slidably passing through said end opening and into said hollow step body; and a catch assembly secured to said step body for releasably engaging said body extender.

6. The apparatus of claim **4** wherein said step body has a body opening wherein said catch assembly slidably passes; and said body extender includes a first pin recess, a second pin recess, and an extender recess; said second pin recess being aligned with said body opening when said body extender is in a first position with respect to said step body such that part of said catch assembly passes through said body opening and into said second pin recess for locking said body extender into said first position with respect to said step body; and said first pin recess and said extender recess respectively being aligned with said body opening and said body recess when said body extender is in a second position with respect to said step body such that part of said catch assembly passes through said body opening and into said first pin recess for locking said body extender into said second position with respect to said step body.

7. The apparatus of claim **5** wherein said step body has a body opening wherein said catch assembly slidably passes; and said body extender includes a first pin recess, a second pin recess, and an extender recess; said second pin recess being aligned with said body opening when said body extender is in a first position with respect to said step body such that part of said catch assembly passes through said body opening and into said second pin recess for locking said body extender into said first position with respect to said step body; and said first pin recess and said extender recess respectively being aligned with said body opening and said body recess when said body extender is in a second position with respect to said step body such that part of said catch assembly passes through said body opening and into said first pin recess for locking said body extender into said second position with respect to said step body.

8. The apparatus of claim **7** wherein said body extender additionally comprises a flange member connected thereto.

9. A step assembly comprising a post; a post knob integrally bound to the post; a step member releasably secured to the post and including a step body having a first end, a second end, and a structure defining a body recess wherein part of said post removably lodges; a lug member integrally bound to said step body and having a lug bottom, a lug sidewall, and a lug recess forming a sidewall opening in said lug sidewall and a bottom opening in said lug bottom and wherein said post knob removably lodges.

10. The step assembly of claim **9** wherein said lug member extends outwardly from said step body, and said sidewall opening of said lug recess faces said first end of said step body.

11. The step assembly of claim **10** wherein said step body comprises a body base and a body sidewall bound to said body base and having said lug member integrally bound thereto and extending outwardly therefrom, and said lug recess having a first recess sidewall generally parallel to said body sidewall.

12. The step assembly of claim **11** wherein said lug recess additionally includes a second recess sidewall opposed to said first recess sidewall and generally parallel to said first recess sidewall.

13. The step assembly of claim **12** wherein said structure of said step body further defines a generally hollow step body with said second end having and end opening; a body extender slidably passing through said end opening and into said hollow step body; and a catch assembly secured to said step body for releasably engaging said body extender.

14. The step assembly of claim **13** wherein said step body has a body opening wherein said catch assembly slidably passes; and said body extender includes a first pin recess, a second pin recess, and an extender recess; said second pin recess being aligned with said body opening when said body extender is in a first position with respect to said step body such that part of said catch assembly passes through said body opening and into said second pin recess for locking said body extender into said first position with respect to said step body; and said first pin recess and said extender recess respectively being aligned with said body opening and said body recess when said body extender is in a second position

with respect to said step body such that part of said catch assembly passes through said body opening and into said first pin recess for locking said body extender into said second position with respect to said step body.

15. The step assembly of claim **9** wherein said post comprises a generally T-shaped structure in horizontal cross-section defined by a first wing section and a second wing section bound to said first wing section and having said post knob integrally bound thereto, said second wing section being partly removably lodged in said body recess.

16. The step assembly of claim **14** wherein said post comprises a generally T-shaped structure in horizontal cross-section defined by a first wing section and a second wing section bound to said first wing section and having said post knob integrally bound thereto, said second wing section being partly removably lodged in said body recess.

17. The step assembly of claim **15** additionally including a wire member supported by said post, and said post knob includes a wire-stop member.

18. The step assembly of claim **16** additionally including a wire member supported by said post, and said post knob includes a wire-stop member.

19. The step assembly of claim **15** additionally including at least one wire member supported by said post and a plurality of wire stop members integrally bound to said second wing section for preventing said at least one wire member from sliding down said post.

20. The step assembly of claim **19** wherein said at least one wire member comprises barb wire.

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